

International Application No. PCT/EP00/08699
Attorney Docket: HOFM3001/JEK

APPENDIX OF CLAIMS

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1(Amended). Apparatus for depositing loose sheet material such as papers of value and bank notes, comprising a transport apparatus arranged to transport the sheet material and a stacking unit for depositing the sheet material in a deposit device as well as a strapping unit, wherein the deposit device is arranged for selective deposition loose and/or strapped sheet material.

2(Amended). Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the deposit apparatus includes a movable plate which is positioned above a deposit bin in a first operating mode and positioned outside the area of the deposit bin in a second operating mode.

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3(Amended). Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the strapping unit is arranged in swiveling fashion in a door of the apparatus.

4(Amended). Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the deposit device is configured as a tandem unit with two deposit bins each having a stacking unit associated therewith.

5(Amended). Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the deposit device includes a sensor arranged to determine the height of an already deposited stack of sheets.

6(Amended). Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein one of the deposit device and deposit bin contains a vertically displaceable bottom which is displaceable in dependence on the sensor evaluation and a selected operating mode.

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7(Amended). Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the displaceable bottom is lowered in steps in the operating mode for strapped deposit.

8(Amended). Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the displaceable bottom is lowerable continuously or in steps in the operating mode for loose stacking.

9(Amended). Apparatus according to claim 1, including a deposit bin for stacking sheet material, wherein the deposit bin is arranged as a removal aid.

10(Amended). Apparatus according to claim 1, including a deposit bin for stacking sheet material, where the deposit bin is arranged as a safety bin.

11(Amended). Apparatus according to claim 2, including a movable clamping apparatus disposed above the movable plate, said clamping apparatus being lowerable onto a stack of sheet material and arranged to deliver the stack to the strapping unit.

12(Amended). Apparatus according to claim 1, including a gripper arranged to transport the sheet material into the strapping unit.

13(Amended). Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the strapping unit includes a printer for printing the strap with data relating to the sheet material.

14(Amended). A method for depositing loose sheet material such as papers of value and bank notes, wherein sheet material is supplied by means of a transport unit to a stacking unit which deposits the sheet material in a deposit unit, comprising selectively depositing the sheet material in loose or strapped form in a deposit bin of the deposit unit.

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15(Amended). A method according to claim 14, wherein:

for a strapped deposit a movable plate is positioned above the deposit bin, and the sheet material is deposited on said plate until a predetermined number of sheets or predetermined stack height has been reached,

the deposited sheet material is held on the movable plate and guided into a strapping unit with a clamping apparatus or transported into the strapping unit by means of a gripper, and

the movable plate is withdrawn and the stack of sheets stripped above the deposit bin.

16(Amended). The method according to claim 14, wherein the movable plate is positioned outside the area of the deposit bin for loose deposit of sheet material in the deposit bin.

17(Amended). The method according to claim 14, including using a sensor to evaluate what height the deposited sheet material occupies within the deposit bin and in accordance with the evaluation lowering a displaceable bottom of the deposit bin sufficiently so that there is enough room for depositing a further packet or a predetermined quantity of loose sheet material in the bin.